

REMARKS

The amendments to the claims do not add new matter. The amended claims merely recite elements in the originally filed claims. In the claims, the word “assembled,” which replaces the word “composite” is used throughout the specification. More importantly, the amended claims are fully supported by the disclosure in Applicants’ priority application USSN 08/920,630, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit A. In particular, the Examiner’s attention is drawn to Figures 7 and 8 therein and the discussion thereof, beginning at page 16, line 29 through page 18, line 6.

The Examiner requested an Abstract that more accurately reflected the invention being claimed. The Abstract has been amended in conformity with the presently pending claims.

Summary of the Bases for Objection /Rejection

The Patent Office noted that there was no original claim 48 in the specification and requests that claims 49-61 be renumbered as claims 48-60.

The Patent Office requests affirmation of the election of invention of Group Va (claims 26-42, 44 and 46-60).

The drawings are objected to because of crossing hatching (FIGs. 6-7, 13-14, 18, 20C, 21D, 21E and 22D) and labeling (FIG. 1) issues.

The Patent Office commented on the IDS filed 10/09/01.

Claims 38, 41-42 and 53-55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for allegedly being indefinite.

Claims 26-42, 44 and 46-60 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) for allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Pat. 6,200,347 (Anderson et al.).

Claims 26-31, 33-35, 37-38, 40, 42, 49-50, 53-55 and 60 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) for allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Pat. 6,025,538 (Yaccarino).

Each of these bases for objection and/or rejection is addressed in Sections I-VII which follows.

I. Renumbering of the Claims

The Patent Office noted that there was no original claim 48 in the specification and requests that claims 49-61 be renumbered as claims 48-60. In response, the Applicants have amended the claims 49-61 to be renumbered as claims 48-60. In addition, the Applicants amended the claim dependencies in renumbered claims 49 to 60 to reflect the renumbering that occurred. Accordingly, this basis for objection has been rendered moot.

II. Affirmation of Election of Species

The Patent Office requests that the Applicants affirm their election to prosecute the invention of Group Va (claims 26-42, 44 and 46-60). In response, the Applicants hereby affirm their election to prosecute the invention of Group Va (claims 26-42, 44 and 46-60).

III. Objection to some of the Drawings

The Patent Office has objected to certain drawings because of cross hatching (FIGs. 6-7, 13-14, 18, 20C, 21D, 21E and 22D) and labeling (FIG. 1) issues. Specifically, the Patent Office objects to FIGs 6-7, 13-14, 18, 20C, 21D, 21E and 22D because the cross-hatching therein indicates “metal” rather than “bone components.” In addition, the Patent Office objects to FIG. 1 because it is not labeled as FIG. 1. In response, the Applicants resubmit substitute FIG. 1 (sheet 1/14), now labeled as FIG. 1.

Regarding FIGs. 6-7, 13-14, 18, 20C, 21D, 21E and 22D, the cross hatching is shown as running from top left toward bottom right--like a slash mark. In contrast, the MPEP shows that the cross hatching for a metal runs opposite that of the Applicants, running from top right to bottom left--like a back-slash. Further, the MPEP also shows that for biochemical components, the correct direction of the hatching is as used by the Applicants running from top left to bottom right. In addition, the hatching for biochemical inventions also includes a series of horizontal dashes and crescent moons. The latter were not included in the applicants’ drawings as they would obscure the details of the drawings. FIG. 20C, which had cross-hatching going in both directions was corrected by deleting the cross hatching going from top right to bottom left. A copy of corrected FIG. 20C (sheet 8/14) is

cofiled herewith. No new matter has been added. In light of these amendments and this explanation, it is believed that all bases for rejection of the drawings have been rendered moot.

IV. Lost Reference

The Patent Office indicates that the Gie, *et al.* reference contained in the IDS filed 10/05/01 was lost in the Patent Office. Since the filing of that IDS, the application has been transferred to the present counsel. However, the transferred file did not contain that reference. Accordingly, the Applicants have ordered that reference to make it of record. The reference will be filed as soon as it is received.

V. 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 38, 41-42 and 53-55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for allegedly being indefinite. According to the Patent Office, the Markush group of claim 38 is unclear because of the multiple use of “and” and “or.” In response, the Applicants have cancelled claim 38, thereby rendering this basis for rejection moot.

The Patent Office has rejected claims 41-42 based upon the recitation of the term “plate-like,” which is alleged to be unclear. Similarly, the Patent Office has rejected claims 53-55 based upon the recitation of the term “peg-like,” which is alleged to be unclear. In response, the Applicants have cancelled claims 41-42 and 53-55, thereby rendering this basis for rejection moot.

VI. 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Pat. 6,200,347 (Anderson)

Claims 26-42, 44 and 46-60 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) for allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Pat. 6,200,347 (Anderson et al.). Applicants have amended claims 26-34 in conformity with the Applicants priority application USSN 08/920,630, filed 08/27/97. Accordingly, Anderson, which has an earliest claimed priority date of 01/05/99 is no longer prior art.

VII. 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Pat. 6,025,538 (Yaccarino)

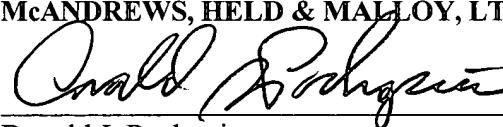
Claims 26-31, 33-35, 37-38, 40, 42, 49-50, 53-55 and 60 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) for allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Pat. 6,025,538 (Yaccarino). Applicants have amended claims 26-34 in conformity with the Applicants priority application USSN 08/920,630, filed 08/27/97. Accordingly, Yaccarino, which has an earliest claimed priority date of 11/20/98 is no longer prior art.

For these reasons, the allowance of claims 26-34 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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DESCRIPTION

CORTICAL BONE CERVICAL SMITH-ROBINSON FUSION IMPLANT

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1.0 Background of the Invention

1.1 Field of the Invention:

This invention relates to a cortical bone implant for use in cervical Smith-Robinson
10 vertebral fusion procedures, as well as methods for the manufacture and use thereof.

1.2 Background Art:

Since at least the mid to late 1950's anterior cervical spinal fusions have been performed
15 in order to alleviate chronic neck, arm and shoulder pain caused by trauma, disc herniation, or
spondylosis (Robinson and Smith, 1955; Smith and Robinson, 1958). The classic procedure
referred to as the Smith-Robinson cervical fusion employs a horseshoe-shaped graft to promote
vertebral fusion (Robinson *et al.*, 1962). The Cloward technique employs a cancellous bone
dowel (Cloward, 1958), and the Bailey-Badgley procedure uses a strut (Bailey and Badgley,
20 1960). In a study comparing the compressive load capacity of the various implants used
according to these procedures, it was found that the Smith-Robinson graft could sustain loads up
to 344 N, the Cloward dowel could sustain loads of up to 188 N, and the Bailey-Badgley type
could sustain loads up to 195 N, (White and Hirsch, 1972). In a modified Smith-Robinson
procedure, the horseshoe-shaped implant is inserted with the cortical end of the implant located
25 posteriorly, which has been reported to increase the fusion rate while decreasing the graft
extrusion and collapse sometimes experienced with the Cloward dowels (Whitecloud and
Dunsker, 1993). However, in a recent study evaluating the success and relief rates achieved
according to these procedures, it was found that less than 100% success rate (fusion, patient
improvement and absence of complications) was achieved, regardless of which method or
30 implant was used (Grooms *et al.*, 1996).

U.S. Patent No. 5,306,309, discloses a spinal disk implant comprising a solid body of

biocompatible synthetic material arranged to define a right-rectangular solid having two opposed side faces and two opposed transverse faces, including a convexly curved anterior face and a posterior face, for implantation in the intervertebral space. The discussion of vertebral and intervertebral morphology is hereby incorporated by reference.

5 U.S. Patent No. 5,609,635, discloses a lordotic interbody spinal fusion implant comprising a wedge shaped metallic cage for insertion into the intervertebral space.

U.S. Patent No. 5,306,307, discloses a ceramic spinal disk implant having a serrated edge.

None of these references disclose a cortical bone intervertebral implant having a substantially "D"- or bread-loaf-shaped structure having a canal into which osteogenic materials 10 may be packed, which sustains spinal loads, and which is remodeled into the spine in the course of fusion. Accordingly, the present invention addresses the need in the art for improvements to both the implant and the avoidance of post-surgical complications from anterior cervical fusions. The present invention provides a new cortical bone implant for use in achieving anterior cervical 15 fusions when implanted according to the Smith-Robinson procedure. In addition, in view of the peculiar characteristics of bone, the present invention comprises unique methods and apparatuses for the manufacture of the substantially "D"-shaped cortical bone implant.

2.0 Summary of the Invention

20 An implant composed substantially of cortical bone is provided for use in cervical Smith-Robinson vertebral fusion procedures. According to methods of this invention, the implant is derived from allograft or autograft cortical bone sources, is machined to form a substantially "D"-shaped implant having a canal into which osteogenic material may be packed. The implant is inserted into the space between adjacent cervical vertebrae to provide support and induce fusion 25 of the adjacent vertebrae.

3.0 Brief Description of the Drawings

Figure 1 provides several views of the fusion implant of this invention.

Figure 2 provides views of the core cutter and drill assembly and the bone plug formed by cutting
5 into the diaphysis of a long bone when such a core cutter and drill assembly is used.

Figure 3 provides a view of broach as used according to this invention and an asymmetric canal formed by use of such a broach.

Figure 4 provides several views of an apparatus for machining a profile on the exterior surface of the implant of this invention.

10 Figure 5 provides a view of an apparatus for inscribing retention teeth in the upper surface, lower surface or both upper and lower surfaces of the implant.

Figure 6 provides several views and dimensions for specific embodiments of the implant of this invention.

Figure 7 provides a view of a stacked embodiment of the implant of this invention.

15 Figure 8 provides several views of an implant of this invention formed by juxtaposition of mirror image halves of the implant.

4.0 Detailed Description of the Invention

20 According to this invention, a substantially "D"-shaped cortical bone implant for cervical Smith-Robinson fusions is produced, preferably under aseptic conditions. Class 10 clean room processing is desirable, and sterilization of all machining tools is likewise preferred, (particularly after switching from one allograft donor to the next), so that the finished product may be treated by standard techniques known in the art (alcohol, peroxide, or like treatments), prior to storage
25 and shipment to physicians for use in implantation procedures. Because of the peculiarities of working with bone, and in particular, because of the desirability of maintaining aseptic conditions while working with this material, novel approaches have been adopted in the production of the product of this invention.

The implant is preferably formed from cortical bone obtained from tibia, femur or other

source of strong cortical bone. The bone source may be autograft or, due to possible complications at the donor site (infection, pain, delayed healing), is preferably, allograft bone. In addition, it is critical that the source bone be derived from a donor whose medical history is well known (absence of transmissible diseases, cancer, osteoporosis), and that the donor bone be obtained under aseptic conditions according to accepted practices in the art of tissue banking. In addition, extensive *in vitro* testing should be conducted to ensure the absence of pathogenic agents.

The approach adopted in describing the implant of this invention is to first provide a narrative disclosure of preferred methods for making the implant, followed by a detailed description of the implant itself, followed by a detailed description of various apparatuses and aspects of the machining process, and finally, a detailed description of the method of using the implant.

4.1 Narrative Description of Implant Manufacture

While any shape of cortical bone may be used to begin with, we have found that for consistent production of cortical bone which may be reliably machined, it is advantageous to commence with a plug of bone which extends from the exterior of the diaphysis of a long bone toward the intramedullary canal (where, *in vivo*, the bone marrow resides). The result is a bone plug or dowel which has an outer substantially cortical end and an internal end which is composed largely of soft cancellous bone. In cutting the bone plug, we have discovered that the use of a core cutter is convenient. This device comprises an outer coring element of any desired diameter, whereby the diameter of the bone plug is defined, and a centrally located solid drill bit, which provides a canal through the center of the bone plug as well as stability for the core cutting element. The core cutter-drill assembly is preferably torqued by an air drill, driven by sterile air, and the source bone is preferably immobilized in a sterilized vice during the core-cutting process.

We have discovered that in the above-described manner, cortical bone implants may be fashioned having heights, widths and lengths which are practically useful in the Smith-Robinson cervical fusion method. According to this method, the height of the implant is only limited by

the distance from the exterior of the bone diaphysis to the intramedullary canal. However, we have discovered that, by this method, final implant heights from about 7 mm to about 14 mm may be produced, depending on the choice of bone source and the location on the bone from which the bone plug is cored. Since it is extremely rare for the cervical intervertebral space to 5 extend beyond these limits, this method is therefore capable of supplying implants of required or useful heights. Likewise, the length and width of the implant are defined by the diameter of the core-cutter, and final lengths and widths of between about 7 and 14 mm are easily provided for by this method. In addition, where the need arises for heights between about 10 mm and 14 mm, or if difficulty is experienced in obtaining donor bone having a sufficient width from the exterior 10 of the bone to the intra-medullary canal to provide such heights, alternate methods of producing the implant of desired heights disclosed herein may be employed. For example, in a first such alternate method, implants of this invention are produced and then stacked to provide a unitary implant of the desired height dimensions. Such stacked implants may be maintained in a unitary association by drilling appropriate holes through the height of the implant, and inserting therein 15 appropriate retention pins made from any desirable material, including cortical bone, bioabsorbable synthetic polymer, titanium or other metallic retention pins. In a further alternate method, a section of cortical bone along the long axis of a long bone may be machined according to methods known in the art. By then further shaping and cutting appropriate heights in such cortical bone, and bringing halves of the implant into juxtaposition with each other, implants of 20 any desired shape and height are produced.

Continuing with a description of the first method for making the implant of this invention, the cancellous bone on the internal side of the bone plug is removed by any convenient means, including with a saw, an abrasive means such as a diamond tipped rotary sander, or a tooling bit mounted in a lathe, to produce a "washer" shaped piece of substantially cortical bone. 25 Both the internal and external ends of the bone plug should be machined flat, thereby forming a top face and a bottom face, each of which is substantially planar, and preferably parallel. While the cancellous bone is partially or completely removed by this process, there remains a slight difference in the density of the bone from the external (cortical) to the internal (cancellous or originally intra-medullary) aspect of the bone plug. It is desirable to record the orientation of the

bone plug as subsequent machining steps proceed most efficiently when machined from the external aspect toward the internal aspect.

In order to accommodate subsequent machining steps and to provide an orientation to the implant according to which the surgeon may properly insert the implant, the circular internal canal formed by the centrally located solid drill bit of the core-cutter is modified to form an asymmetric shape, such as a key way. This may be achieved by any of a number of different means, including drilling a slot into an aspect of the internal canal closest to the external (more dense cortical) end of the dowel. However, in a preferred embodiment of this invention, we have found that an implant of consistently good final quality may be machined by conversion of the circular canal into a substantially "D" shaped canal having three essentially rectangular walls and a fourth convexly curved wall. We have found that it is desirable for the curvature of the convexly curved wall to approximate the external curvature of the bone plug. This modification may be achieved by any of a variety of means. However, we have invented an efficient means by which consistently usable implants may be reproducibly machined. This is accomplished by immobilizing the implant, for example in an arbor press assembly, and, preferably from the originally cortical external (denser) end of the implant, slowly forcing a broach through the originally circular canal. The broach is preferably a hard metallic member having a plurality of spaced-apart ribs or rings machined therein, with indentations provided between each ring which thereby form the spacing between adjacent rings. In addition, the edges of each ring are desirably very precise, angular, and sharp, such that as the broach is forced through the originally circular internal canal, the sharp cutting edge of each ring shaves off an incremental amount of bone as the ring passes through the implant. Each ring of the plurality of rings has a shape which, starting at the insertion end of the broach is tapered from an essentially circular shape to any desired final shape for the canal. Accordingly, in one embodiment of this invention, the rings transition from a circular shape to a substantially "D"-shaped profile over several inches and over a plurality of spaced apart rings. It will be appreciated that the length of the broach and the number of rings used is defined by the amount of bone that must be removed to form the new shape, the width of each ring and the width of the space between each ring. Removal of no more than about 0.004" of bone by each ring has been found to be a sufficiently small transition to

ensure that the vast majority of implant blanks survive this machining step. Broaches of approximately 6" in length have been found adequate for most implant shapes, but for very asymmetric shapes (e.g. an implant which is 11 mm wide and 14 mm long), more bone would need to be removed to form the "D"-shaped canal than from a symmetric implant (e.g. a 14 mm wide by 14 mm long implant). This need may be accommodated by use of more than one broach, with the shape of the insertion end of each consecutive broach substantially matching the shape of the last ring on the previous broach.

Having formed an asymmetric shape, such as a key way, from the internal canal running through the implant, we have found it desirable to modify the external profile of the implant from a substantially circular shape to another desired form. In a preferred embodiment of this invention, the external form of the implant is machined so as to proportionately match the shape of the substantially "D"-shaped internal canal. An external "D"-shaped profile has been used in implants known in the art (see for example U.S. patent 5,306,309; 5,522,899) made from materials other than bone, because of the ability of the convexly curved face of the implant to substantially match the curvature of the anterior aspect of the intervertebral disk into which the implant is to be inserted, as well as to provide efficient spinal load distribution over the remainder of the implant. However, due to the peculiar nature of bone, and the requirements of aseptic or sterile manufacturing, inventive methods and apparatuses were required to produce the desired external profile for the cortical bone implant. It will be recognized that, based on the instant disclosure, a substantially "D"-shaped external profile of the implant may be machined by a variety of means which vary from the precise methods disclosed herein. In addition, other external profiles than the "D"-shaped profile are likewise enabled by modifications of the methods and apparatuses disclosed herein for formation of the "D"-shaped external or internal profile.

We have found it convenient and reproducible to use either of two principal methods for machining the external profile. The implant, with the "D" or alternately shaped internal canal being used as a key way, is fitted onto the end of a spindle which precisely matches the shape of the internal canal of the implant, thereby providing purchase for machining of the external profile of the implant. In a first preferred method, as the implant is rotated on the spindle, it is contacted

with an asymmetric generator (grinding) wheel attached to a cog which meshes at a known registration point with a cog to which the spindle with the implant is attached. The speed of rotation of the exterior of the spindle mounted implant, and the exterior of the generator wheels are designed to differ such that as the generator wheel and implant are contacted and are rotated in fixed registration, the generator surface (which is preferably an abrasive diamond plated surface), grinds bone from the external surface of the implant, to form a profile thereon defined by the asymmetric shape of the grinder wheel.

In a second external profile generation method, the implant, with the "D" or alternately shaped internal canal being used as a key way, is fitted onto the end of a spindle which precisely matches the shape of the internal canal of the implant, thereby providing purchase for machining of the external profile of the implant. In this method, the spindle is affixed to an asymmetric cam which rotates concentrically with the spindle, and therefore the implant. The thus mounted implant is contacted with a cutter means, such as a sharp bit having cutting edges which rotate about an adjacent axis. The implant mounted spindle riding on the asymmetric cam is biased to contact the rotating cutter, which thus traces a profile onto the exterior of the implant defined by the shape of the asymmetric cam. For purposes of this disclosure, use of the term "asymmetric cam" should be understood to mean any desirable shape such that upon production of the implant, the shape thereof is defined by that of the asymmetric cam. Shapes contemplated by this disclosure include, but are not limited to, elliptical shapes, D-shapes, partially curved shapes, and the like.

Once the external profile has been machined, the implant is removed from the spindle, and the machining of the implant may either be terminated, to provide a substantially "D"-shaped cortical bone implant with flat upper and lower surfaces, or an external feature may be machined into the upper and lower surfaces to prevent backing out of the implant upon insertion into the intervertebral space. This may be achieved by a number of means, such as by machining annular rings, indentations and projections, ribbing or teeth into the upper, lower, or both surfaces of the implant. In a preferred embodiment of this invention, the implant is passed through a set of opposing jaws bearing teeth which broach a tooth-shaped profile into the implant as it is forced through the jaws. Alternatively, the implant is passed several times over a ridged surface which

cuts the desired tooth profile into the upper, lower or both surfaces of the implant. Preferably, the thus formed teeth angle toward the anterior (convexly curved) face of the implant to prevent backing out of the implant once it is inserted into an appropriately shaped cavity formed in the intervertebral space in an anterior aspect of the cervical spine. In order to accommodate the 5 difficulty surgeons experience in forming precise angles when forming such cavities in the spine, (see for example U.S. patent No. 5,397,364 disclosing a beveled edge to reduce trauma upon insertion of a metallic spinal implant), a beveled edge of defined radius is preferably machined into three faces of the implant, but leaving the anterior face unbeveled. The sharp anterior edge, like the teeth in the upper and lower surfaces of the implant, retards backing out of the implant.

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4.2 Detailed Description of the Implant

Referring now to figure 1A, there is shown a top view, as if viewed from the top of the spinal column, of a substantially "D"-shaped cortical bone implant 100. The implant has a wall 15 thickness 101, a length 103, a width 102, and an internal canal 104, which fall within desired tolerances (see discussion below). The implant comprises four contiguous walls, including a substantially straight rear wall 105, substantially straight side walls 106 and 107, and a preferably curved front wall 108. In figure 1B, there is shown a side view of the implant 100, revealing the height 109, of the implant. In addition, this view shows, in outline, the internal side walls 106' 20 and 107' of the internal canal, 104. It also shows the top 110 and bottom 111 surfaces of the implant. In figure 1C, there is shown a top view of an embodiment of the implant 100 in which an external feature 120 has been inscribed onto the top 110 and bottom 111 surfaces of the implant. In addition, a "radius" or bevel 115 is shown on the two side and posterior edges of the implant. Figure 1D shows a side view of the implant 100 in which the inscribed feature 120 can 25 clearly be seen in the top 110 and bottom 111 surfaces of the implant. In this view, it can be seen that the external feature 120 has the side profile of a set of teeth, all of which angle toward the anterior face 108 of the implant. An outline of the bevel 115 is also evident in this view, as is the rounded posterior edge 105. As can be seen, in this embodiment of the invention, the anterior edge 108 is maintained with a sharp edged. In figure 1E, there is shown a detail of one

embodiment of the inscribed feature 120 on the portion of the implant indicated in figure 1D. In a preferred embodiment, the feature 120 defines a tooth-like structure, with teeth 121 separated from each other by concavities 122. An angle θ defines the grade of the concavity as it ramps to the tooth. The tooth height 123, space between teeth 124, and aperture of the concavity 125 may 5 all be defined by the manufacturer to optimize retention of the implant within the cervical spine after proper placement.

4.3 Detailed Description of the Method of Manufacturing the Implant

10 Because of the peculiar nature of bone, and the desirability of sterile or aseptic manufacturing, specific and specialized procedures and apparatuses are required for successful formation of the implants of this invention. Those skilled in the art will recognize that, based on the methods and apparatuses disclosed herein, the implant of this invention may be manufactured by alternate means suggested by those described herein. Nonetheless, through careful design and 15 knowledge of bone structure, instruments for the manufacture of the implant of this invention have been invented for this purpose. In what follows, specific details with respect to preferred method and apparatuses for making the implant of this invention are provided. It should be recognized that the invention should not be construed as being limited to these specifics.

Referring to figure 2, there is shown in side view in figure 2A a core cutter 200, having a 20 core bit 201 which is affixed by a set screw 203 to the shaft 204 of a drill bit 202, centrally located within and coaxial with the core cutter. In figure 2B, an end-on view of the core cutter 200 is provided showing the set screw 203 in outline. Figure 2C shows a side view of the bone plug 210 which is formed by cutting a plug of bone from the diaphysis of a long bone using the core cutter 200. At one end, 211, originally the external cortical surface of the bone shaft, there 25 is a substantially cortical bone surface through which a hole 213 is formed by the central bit 202 of the core cutter 200. The other end, 212, is an irregular and bone surface which, *in vivo*, formed part of the wall of the intramedullary canal. Cancellous bone or other microstructure at the end 212 is removed, and both ends are ground, cut or otherwise machined to be substantially flat and parallel, to form the substantially cortical bone plug 210 shown in figure 2D.

Referring to figure 3, there is shown in figure 3A an internal canal profile broaching tool 300. A plurality of spaced-apart ribs or rings 301 are provided along the length of the broach which taper from a substantially circular shape at the insertion end 302 of the broach, to substantially "D"-shaped rings 303 (or any other desired shape) at the completion end 304 of the broach 300 (intermediate ribs 305 are not shown; rather, the outline of the taper angle is shown). A notch or groove 306 is provided in the broach completion end 304 for releasably affixing the broach into a means, such as a press, for forcing the broach through the implant canal. In figure 3B, there is provided an end-on view of the cancellous bone plug 310 after the broaching procedure is completed. As can be seen, the internal canal 104 has been converted from a circular canal into a substantially "D"-shaped canal. As will be appreciated from this disclosure, any of a number of different asymmetric shapes in the internal canal 104 may be defined by this or analogous means, the principal goal being to provide a purchase (referred to herein as a "key way") within the implant for external machining of the implant.

Having formed a key way within the implant, it is possible to modify the external profile of the implant. In one aspect of this invention, referring to figure 4A, this is conveniently achieved by affixing the implant 410 to the spindle 420 of a lathe 400. The spindle shaft 440 extends, through bearings (not shown), to a means 450 (such as a handle or a motor) for rotating the spindle. Affixed to the spindle-shaft is a cam 430, the shape of which defines the ultimate external profile of the implant 410. The spindle shaft 440 and bearings are mounted in a cross slide 441, which translates in a first plane, referred to as the "Y-plane". Motion in the Y-plane is limited by contact of the cam 430 with a limiting means 460 such as a cam follower, which remains in register with a carriage 442 which translates along a plane, the "X-plane", transverse to the Y-plane motion of the cross-slide. The cross-slide is mounted in a slide-way 443 of the carriage 442, which in turn is slideably mounted on the bed 444 of the lathe, such that the carriage 442 is permitted to translate along the X-plane. Travel of the slide 442 along the X-plane is limited by means of a stop screw 470.

Further detail of this means for generating the external profile of the implant is provided in figure 4B, which provides a side view of one specific embodiment of the implant external profile generator 400. An air driven turbine within housing 401 provides a source of torque to

turn a shaft 402. A means for cutting or grinding the external surface of the implant 410, such as an appropriately fashioned cutter or bit having a non-cutting end 403 for fixation to the shaft 402. Extending from the non-cutting end 403 which has a first diameter, is a cutting surface 404, having a second, smaller diameter. A "shoulder" 405, forms a radius extending between the 5 smaller diameter of the cutting surface 404 and the larger diameter of non-cutting surface 403. The cutting surface 404 is contacted with the implant blank 410, mounted on spindle 420, to which, as described above is mounted an asymmetric cam 430. The thus mounted implant blank 410 is brought into contact with the cutting surface 404, by virtue of translation in the X-plane of the carriage 442. The spindle 420, and thus the asymmetric cam 430 are rotated, manually or by 10 motor driven means, through shaft 440 and handle 450 which are attached concentrically with the cam 430. Preferably, the asymmetric cam 430 is elastically biased toward a stationary cam follower 460. In this fashion, after several revolutions of the handle 450, the shape of the asymmetric cam 430 generates the desired external profile of the implant 410 riding on the spindle 420, through contact with the rotating cutting surface 404.

15 To ensure that the implant blank is machined only up to the point that the forward edge 411 of the implant approaches but does not contact the "shoulder" 405 on the cutter, a stop screw 470 is provided. The stop screw 470 is set to prevent further advancement of the implant blank 410 by stopping advancement of the carriage 442 when the leading edge 471 of the stop screw 470 comes into contact with a measuring screw 480. The appropriate setting of the stop screw 470 is 20 achieved at the start of the milling process by first placing the implant 410 between the end 481 of the measuring screw 480 and an anvil 482, and tightening the measuring screw 480 until it just makes contact with the implant. In this fashion, the measuring screw 480 and anvil 482 essentially form a micrometer, with the gap being defined by the width of the implant. Both the measuring screw 480 and anvil 482 are housed within a measuring slide 483 which, when slid all 25 the way to the left as shown in figure 4B, abuts a rotateable stop cam 490, retained within the same slide-way as the measuring slide 483 by a retainer 484. The rotateable stop cam 490 may be set in either of two positions, which produces a difference in the stopping point of the stop screw 470 of approximately 0.06". The significance of this difference is that the first position arrests advancement of the stop screw 470 (and therefore the carriage 442) just before the

implant 410 contacts the radius shoulder 405 of the cutting surface 404. In the second position, the stop cam 490 allows the stop screw to advance the additional approximately 0.06" to allow contact of the implant 410 with the shoulder 405 of the cutting surface 404 to thereby bevel the edges of the implant 410 that are thus contacted. Accordingly, in the pre-milling setup, the stop cam 490 should be rotated such that the stop screw 470 is forced to stop the extra 0.06", following which a further processing step may be carried out in which the stop cam 490 is rotated to the second position in which the stop screw 470 is allowed to advance this additional approximately 0.06".

In figure 4C, there is provided an end-on, rear view (i.e. looking from the handle 450 toward the spindle 420) of the asymmetric cam 430, the spindle 420 and the implant 410. In addition, in this detail view, an additional feature in the asymmetric cam 430 is seen as a diminution in the thickness along three faces 431 of the asymmetric cam 430 which is a relief in the rear of the asymmetric cam 430. The significance of this relief 431 is that it restricts the contact of the implant 410 with the shoulder 405 to the extent defined by the relief in the rear of the asymmetric cam 430. As noted above, in fashioning an implant site in the intervertebral space during a partial discectomy, surgeons are unable to produce perfectly sharp angles. To accommodate this imperfection, to prevent trauma upon insertion of an implant with sharp edges, and to create as tight-fitting an implant as possible, the fashioning of a bevel around the edges of the implant that are inserted into the intervertebral space created by the surgeon is desired. At the same time, in order to prevent backing out of the implant, it may be desirable to retain a sharp anterior implant edge, and therefore the relief in the cam 430 does not extend completely around the cam. Thus, upon completion of the external profile of the implant 410 as described above, the carriage 442 is backed away from the cutter, the stop cam 490 is flipped to its second position allowing advancement of the stop screw 470 the additional approximately 0.06" mentioned above. At the same time, a shot pin 432 is advanced into the relief 431 by means of a shot pin mover 433, thereby allowing rotation of the cam 430 only to the extent permitted by the shot pin 432 as it rides within the relief 431. With the shot pin 432 riding in the relief 431, the "shoulder" 405 contacts the leading edge 411 of the implant blank 410, thereby rounding three edges of the implant 410. After machining the leading edge 411 of the implant 410, the implant is removed

from the spindle 420, turned around, and re-positioned on the spindle 420, to inscribe the bevel on three edges of the other side of the implant.

In figure 4D, a frontal view is provided of the spindle 420, the implant 410, the asymmetric cam 430, and the cam follower 460. Also shown is the cam adapter 461, by means 5 of which the cam follower 460 is affixed to the carriage 442, and by means of which the cam follower 460 maintains the cutting surfaces 404/405 in contact with the implant 410 as defined by the shape of the asymmetric cam 430. Also shown is a part of the cross-slide 441, which is preferably biased or which may be pushed manually toward the cam follower 460.

In figure 4E, a side detail view is provided of the stop cam 490. In this view, a stop cam 10 handle 491 is shown which allows the operator of the implant outside profile generator to fix the stop cam 490 in a first position A, and a second position B, whereby additional travel of the stop screw 470, and thereby advancement of the carriage 442, is provided in position B, of about 0.06" due to the difference in the distances shown for these positions.

By means of the apparatuses and method described above, a cortical bone implant 100 as 15 shown in figure 1 having a substantially "D"-shaped external profile, and a substantially "D"- shaped internal canal is produced. Naturally, based on this disclosure, those skilled in the art will appreciate that other shapes, both for the external profile and internal canal of the implant may be produced. For example, an ellipsoid is produced by the above described methods simply by modification of the shape of the asymmetrically shaped cam 430, and the internal canal shape 20 may be modified by drilling, routing, or broaching using a broach that tapers to any desired shape. The thus formed implant may be used after machining as described, followed by appropriate cleaning methods known in the art (e.g. bathing in alcohol, peroxide treatment etc.). In addition, however, it may be desirable to inscribe an external feature on the upper surface 110, the lower surface 111, or both. Such a feature may take any desirable form, such as annular 25 rings, indentations, projections, ribbing or teeth. In a preferred embodiment, teeth sloping toward the anterior aspect 108 of the implant are inscribed onto the top 110 and bottom 111 surfaces of the implant by forcing the implant through opposed broaches bearing inscribing teeth. Alternatively, the upper 110, lower 111 or both surfaces in turn may be repeatedly run, manually or by a machine-driven means, over an appropriately fashioned jaw bearing abrasive teeth such

that the required profile of teeth are inscribed into the surfaces of the implant. Desirably, the successive teeth of the jaw are incrementally raised in height such that each tooth is only required to remove a small amount of bone (about 0.004" per tooth, to a total depth of 0.015"). In addition, it is preferred that the rake (angle of the teeth) be sufficiently sharp as to allow the 5 implant to bite into the implantation site, without at the same time being so sharp as to be excessively brittle.

In figure 5, figure 5A, there is provided a top view of one side of one embodiment of blades 502 for use in a broach assembly 500 for inscribing teeth into the top 110, bottom 111 or both surfaces of the implant. In outline, there is shown a lock-down handle 501 for clamping the 10 assembly of blades 502 to a base 503. By bringing a mirror image jaw into register with the depicted broach, a space is formed between the opposing teeth 502 at a distance sufficient to accommodate passage of the implant therebetween, provided that the teeth abrade recesses into the top and bottom surfaces of the implant 100. To ensure proper engagement of the blades 502 and the implant 100, there is provided a non-cutting surface 506 for contacting the implant 100 15 as it is introduced into the broach assembly 500. The non-cutting surface 506 acts as a type of micrometer, forcing the cutting surfaces of the teeth 502 sufficiently apart to properly engage the implant as it passes through the broach assembly 500. In figure 5B, there is provided a side view of an implant mounting device 504 having a "D"-shaped cavity 505 into which a "D"-shaped implant may be fitted for passage through the opposing jaws of the broaching jaw apparatus 500. 20 The resultant implant has the profile shown in figures 1C-1E.

In figures 5C-5E, there is shown an alternate apparatus and method for fashioning the retention teeth in the implant. In figure 5C, there is shown a carriage 510 having an appropriately dimensioned slot 520 for receiving the implant to be grooved. A tensioning screw 530 brings a retention arm 531 into juxtaposition with carriage housing member 532, thereby clamping the 25 implant into position within slot 520. Through carriage housing members 532 and 533, there is aligned a guide-rod 534 for guiding the carriage containing the implant as it is raked across a blade assembly 540, over which said carriage 510 is made to pass. Said guide rod 540 also conveniently acts as a hinge, allowing the carriage 510 to swing upward for implant loading and also permitting the carriage to move down toward the base as the implant surface is cut on each

successive pass of the carriage over said blade assembly 540. The blade assembly 540 is bolted within a base 550 over which said carriage 510 slides. Said base 550 also acts to receive fixation screws 551 and 552 which retain said guide rod 534 in place. A plurality of individual blades 560 are placed in a recess 554 in the base 550 and are maintained in registered position by 5 retention screws 552 passing through retention holes 553 in each blade. Each blade 560 has an initial non-cutting surface 561, which is approximately 0.015" below the cutting surface 562, which in combination with said plurality of blades, forms a flat loading area for implant insertion into said slot 520. Figure 5D provides a side view of one blade 560, while figure 5E provides an end on view of the carriage 510 as it sits above the base 550. Accordingly, the implant is 10 inserted into the slot 520 with the carriage 510 swung up from the base 550. The carriage is then swung down into the starting position with the implant making contact with the non-cutting surfaces 561 of the plurality of blades. The implant is depressed so that it is forced snugly against the non-cutting surface, and then tensioned into place with the retention screw 530. Thereafter, the carriage is slid several times over the base 550 such that the cutting surfaces 562 15 of the plurality of blades thereby inscribe the desired tooth structure into the top surface, the bottom surfaces or both (after switching the implant around) surfaces of the implant. When the metallic bottom of the carriage comes into contact with the base, the machining of the implant is complete.

In figure 6A-I, there is provided a view of three different cortical bone implants according 20 to this invention having particular geometries by way of example and not limitation. In figure 6A, there is shown an example of an implant 600 which has a height of 7 mm, a width of 11 mm, and a length of 14 mm. In addition, dimensions of various radii of the implant are provided. Note the effect of the "shoulder" 405 of the cutter which produces the a 0.059" radius and indent profile 610 starting at the approximate center of the part and proceeding around to the opposite 25 side of the implant, i.e. around three faces of the implant. In figure 6B, the implant 600 is shown as a side view, and in figure 6C, there is shown a detail view of the teeth. Identical descriptions apply to the 7mmX11mmx11mm views of the implants of figures 6D-6F and the 7mmX14mmx14mm implant of figures 6G-6I.

In figure 7, there is shown a further aspect of this invention in which an implant, either

machined as described above, or prior to said machining, is further machined so as to allow stacking thereof to achieve implants of various heights. Commencing from a blank cortical plug at the stage shown in figure 2D has the advantage that if breakage of the implant occurs during machining, this will likely occur prior to completion of all of machining steps. According to this 5 embodiment of the invention, two implant blanks of known height are selected such that a unitary implant composed of both starting implants can be produced of a new desired height (e.g. a 6 mm high implant may be stacked with a 7 mm high implant to produce a 13 mm implant). Each implant blank is placed in a drill jig, and by means of a drill press or like means, holes are drilled through the implants. With the implants still in the jig, the jig is placed on the table of an 10 arbor press. Pins, composed of cortical bone, resorbable but strong biocompatible synthetic material, or metallic pins of the appropriate diameter are then impelled into the holes in the implants such that the implants are formed into a unitary body by these pins. In order to encourage bony ingrowth, channels may be cut into the adjacent surfaces of the implants. The embodiment shown in figure 7A is a top view of an implant 700 into which four holes 701-704 15 have been drilled. In figure 7B, there is shown the juxtaposition of two implants 700A and 700B, with the drilled holes 701-704 in register to receive pins for maintaining the implants in register. In this view, the adjacent surfaces 710A and 710B have not been inscribed with teeth, while the surfaces 711A and 711B have been so inscribed. Based on this disclosure, those skilled in the art will recognize that a number of variations and modifications may be made to 20 stack various forms of bone implants, or to maintain such implants in register with each other. These modifications are to be considered within the scope of this invention.

In a further embodiment of this invention, shown in figure 8, a method for assembling the implant of this invention from component parts is provided. In figure 8A, there is shown an implant 800 composed of two side-by-side halves, 801A and 801B. The two halves of the 25 implant are brought into juxtaposition to form a unitary implant. The two halves may be implanted in juxtaposition, or holes may be formed in each half, and the halves maintained in contact by forcing pins through the holes, in a fashion analogous to that described above for maintaining stacked implants in contact with each other. For this embodiment of the invention, a portion of cortical bone may be harvested from any suitable source of cortical bone. As shown in

figure 8B, a segment, in the form of a block or a column of cortical bone is harvested along the long axis of a long bone, such as the femur, tibia, or fibula. The shape of the bone may be inscribed into the thus-harvested cortical bone by routing, broaching or other means as described herein. The thus-machined cortical bone may then be sectioned into appropriate heights, as
5 needed, to provide the implant halves 801A and 801B. Alternate sites for harvesting the cortical bone segment are shown in figures 8B and 8C.

4.4 Manner of Using the Implant

10 In use, the implant 100 is inserted into a space formed between adjacent vertebrae that are required to be fused. This may be accomplished by the surgeon removing portions of the intervertebral disk, (partial discectomy) and retracting the adjacent vertebrae to allow insertion of an appropriately dimensioned implant. The rear end 105 of the implant is inserted first, and where present, the external feature 120 prevents backing out of the implant. Where no external
15 feature 120 has been inscribed into the top and bottom surfaces of the implant, it may be necessary to affix the implant in position with plate and screw retention systems known in the art. According to this invention, implants are provided having a height of between about 7 and 14 mm, a length of between about 11 and 14 mm and a width of between about 11 and 14 mm. Any permutation or combination of these dimensions may be envisioned, for example (in order of
20 height, length, width): 7x11x11, 8x11x11, etc.; 7x14x14, 8x14x14, etc.; 7x11x14, 8x11x14, etc.

25 Preferably, the surgeon performing the implantation saves the autologous material and debris produced in the course of the partial discectomy for packing into the canal of the present implant. In addition, or alternatively, the canal may be packed (either during the surgical procedure or the canal may be pre-packed) with osteogenic materials, including but not limited to: allograft bone, autograft bone, demineralized bone, Grafton®, bone powder, bone derivatives, bone morphogenetic protein (purified or recombinant), antibiotic, bioactive glass, hydorxyapatite, bioactive ceramics, or combinations thereof.

Following implantation, the recipient (whether human or animal) is monitored for implant stability and success in fusion. Fusion is achieved over the course of several weeks to

several months, during which time increasing levels of load may be placed on the spine.

5.0 References

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6.0 What is Claimed is:

- 1 1. At least one implant consisting substantially of cortical bone, said implant comprising a canal surrounded by a continuous or discontinuous wall of cortical bone in the shape of a circle, an ellipse, or an asymmetric shape, thereby forming an implant having a top face and a bottom face, each of which is substantially planar, with said planes being substantially parallel to each other.
- 1 2. The implant of claim 1 consisting substantially of cortical bone, said implant comprising a canal surrounded by convexly curved anterior cortical bone face and three substantially rectilinear cortical bone faces unitary with said convexly curved anterior cortical bone face.
- 1 3. The implant of claim 2 which has a substantially "D"-shaped external profile.
- 1 4. The implant of claim 2 wherein said canal has a substantially "D"-shape.
- 1 5. The implant of claim 2 further having an external feature on said top face, said bottom face or both.
- 1 6. The implant of claim 5 wherein said external feature is at least one groove or tooth.
- 1 7. The implant of claim 6 wherein said external feature is a series of teeth which angle toward said convexly curved anterior face.
- 1 8. The implant of claim 1 wherein an osteogenic composition is packed within said canal.

1 9. The implant of claim 8 wherein said osteogenic composition derives from the
2 intervertebral space into which said implant is inserted, is hydroxyapatite, bone powder, bone
3 product, bone morphogenetic protein, bioactive glass, bioactive ceramic, or combinations of
4 these.

1 10. The at least one implant of claim 1 comprising discontinuous walls consisting
2 substantially of cortical bone, wherein said discontinuous walls are mirror image halves which, in
3 combination, form said shape.

1 11. The at least one implant of claim 1 comprising stacked implants consisting
2 substantially of cortical bone, said implants comprising a canal surrounded by a continuous or
3 discontinuous wall of cortical bone in the shape of a circle, an ellipse, or an asymmetric shape,
4 thereby forming a stacked implant having a top face and a bottom face, each of which is
5 substantially planar, with said planes being substantially parallel to each other.

1 12. The at least one implant of claim 11 wherein said stacked implants are pinned to
2 each other.

1 13. An implant consisting substantially of at least two shaped cortical bone implants
2 stacked on top of or adjacent to each other.

1 14. The implant of claim 13 wherein said shaped cortical bone implants are adapted to
2 form a unitary implant for implantation into an appropriately dimensioned cavity formed between
3 adjacent vertebrae.

1 15. The implant of claim 14 wherein said cortical bone implants are pinned to each
2 other by cortical bone pins, pins consisting of biocompatible synthetic material or metallic pins.

1 16. The implant of claim 13 wherein said shaped cortical bone implants are two
2 mirror image halves of a desired shape.

1 17. A method of making at least one implant consisting substantially of cortical bone,
2 said implant comprising a canal surrounded by a continuous or discontinuous wall of cortical
3 bone in the shape of a circle, an ellipse, or an asymmetric shape, thereby forming an implant
4 having a top face and a bottom face, each of which is substantially planar, with said planes being
5 substantially parallel to each other, said method comprising:

- 6 (a) obtaining a plug of bone consisting substantially of cortical bone by using a core
7 cutter having a central drill bit, thereby forming a canal through the bone plug
8 obtained with the core cutter;
- 9 (b) machining the bone plug of step (a) to produce a "washer-shaped" bone plug;
- 10 (c) machining the canal through the bone plug to form an asymmetric shape therein; and
- 11 (d) using said asymmetric shape to machine an outside profile of the bone plug.

1 18. The method of claim 17 wherein said plug of bone is obtained by cutting into the
2 diaphysis of a long bone and into the intramedullary canal of said long bone to form a bone plug
3 having a substantially cortical end and an end derived from the wall of the intramedullary canal.

1 19. The method of claim 18 wherein the end of the plug of bone derived from the
2 intramedullary canal is machined to form a substantially planar surface to obtain a substantially
3 "washer-shaped" bone plug composed substantially of cortical bone.

1 20. The method of claim 19 wherein said canal is formed into an asymmetric shape by
2 broaching said canal to form said asymmetric shape through the bone plug.

1 21. The method of claim 20 wherein said asymmetric shape is substantially "D"-
2 shaped.

1 22. The method of claim 20 wherein said bone plug having a substantially "D"-
2 shaped canal is further machined such that the external profile of the bone plug substantially
3 matches the profile of said canal.

1 23. The method of claim 20 wherein said further machining comprises contacting the
2 bone plug with an asymmetrically shaped grinder wheel.

1 24. The method of claim 20 wherein said further machining comprises mounting said
2 bone plug on a spindle affixed to an asymmetrically shaped cam and contacting the thus mounted
3 bone plug with a cutter rotating about a symmetric axis such that the cutter is made to cut more
4 or less bone as dictated by the shape of said asymmetric cam.

1 25. The method of claim 24 further comprising stacking said bone plug, either prior to
2 or after said machining, drilling holes therein, and pinning said stacked bone plugs to each other.

1 26. A method of making at least one implant consisting substantially of cortical bone,
2 said implant comprising a canal surrounded by a continuous or discontinuous wall of cortical
3 bone in the shape of a circle, an ellipse, or an asymmetric shape, thereby forming an implant
4 having a top face and a bottom face, each of which is substantially planar, with said planes being
5 substantially parallel to each other, said method comprising:

- 6 (a) cutting a segment of cortical bone;
- 7 (b) shaping said segment of cortical bone into a symmetric half of the final shape of said
8 implant comprising a canal surrounded by a continuous or discontinuous wall of
9 cortical bone, such that when implanted in juxtaposition with a mirror image segment,
10 an implant is formed having a circular, an elliptical, or an asymmetric shape, a top
11 face and a bottom face, each of which is substantially planar, with said planes being
12 substantially parallel to each other; and
- 13 (c) cutting appropriate lengths of said shaped segment of cortical bone such that said cut
14 length provides half of an implant having a desired height.

1 27. The method of claim 17 which further comprises machining an external feature
2 into the top the bottom or both surfaces of the implant.

1 28. The method of claim 27 wherein said external feature is machined by passing said
2 implant through a broach or by repeatedly passing said implant over a plurality of cutting teeth.

1 29. The method of claim 26 which further comprises machining an external feature
2 into the top the bottom or both surfaces of the implant.

1 30. The method of claim 27 wherein said external feature is machined by passing said
2 implant through a broach or by repeatedly passing said implant over a plurality of cutting teeth.

1 31. A broach for forming a canal of desired shape in bone which comprises a plurality
2 of spaced apart rings, wherein the profile of said plurality of spaced apart rings tapers from a first
3 circular ring to a final ring having said desired shape, said taper allowing for removal by each
4 consecutive ring of no more than about 0.004" of bone.

1 32. An apparatus for forming the external profile of a bone plug having an
2 asymmetric canal, said apparatus comprising (a) a spindle mounted on (b) an asymmetric cam,
3 wherein the shape of said spindle matches the shape of the asymmetric canal of said bone plug so
4 as to allow for a tight mounting of said bone plug onto said spindle, and wherein said asymmetric
5 cam is biased toward (c) a cam follower such that said spindle mounted bone plug is made to
6 contact (d) a cutter means to an extent dictated by the contact of the cam and cam follower such
7 that said cutter fashions an external profile onto the bone plug dictated by the shape of said
8 asymmetric cam.

1 33. The apparatus of claim 32 comprising:
2 (a) a cross-slide housing a shaft connected to said spindle, to which is also affixed said

3 asymmetric cam;

4 (b) a carriage having a slide-way in which said cross-slide translates in a first, Y-plane,
5 said carriage being slideably mounted on a bed such that said carriage translates in a
6 second, X-plane, transverse to said Y-plane;

7 (c) a cam-follower which limits the translation of said cross-slide in said Y-plane as said
8 asymmetric cam contacts said cam-follower; and

9 (d) a stop means which limits the translation of said carriage in said X-plane at a first,
10 predetermined location of said cutter means which is maintained in rotating register
11 with said spindle-mounted implant.

1 34. The apparatus of claim 33 wherein said cutter means has a "shoulder" thereon
2 defining a radius over which the diameter increases from a first diameter of a cutting surface of
3 said cutter means to a second, greater diameter, of a non-cutting surface of said cutter means.

1 35. The apparatus of claim 34 wherein the advancement of said implant toward the
2 shoulder of said cutter means is limited by said stop, the positioning of which is dictated by a
3 measuring means which is contacted with said implant prior to formation of said external profile,
4 said measuring means dictating the extent of translation of said implant toward said shoulder of
5 said cutter means.

1 36. The apparatus of claim 35 wherein said measuring means provides a first and a
2 second stop position for translation of said implant toward said shoulder, such the external
3 profile of said implant may be fully defined by said cutter as said implant is translated toward
4 said first stop position in which contact with said shoulder is prevented, and then, a bevel is
5 formed on one or more edges of said implant by permitting contact of said implant with said
6 shoulder of said cutter means as said implant is further advanced toward said second stop
7 position.

1 37. An apparatus for forming the external profile of a bone plug having an

2 asymmetric canal, said apparatus comprising (a) a spindle, wherein the shape of said spindle
3 matches the shape of said asymmetric canal of said bone plug so as to allow for a tight mounting
4 of said bone plug onto said spindle, and (b) an asymmetrically shaped grinder wheel which may
5 be brought into contact with said bone plug mounted on said spindle, wherein said grinder wheel
6 and said spindle are maintained in registered contact with each other via a gear such that the rate
7 at which the bone plug rotates in relation to the rate of the rotation of the grinder wheel differs
8 sufficiently to allow abrasion of the surface of the bone plug so as to form an external profile
9 thereon which is dictated by the asymmetry of said grinder wheel.

1 38. A method for inducing fusion of cervical vertebrae which comprises removing a
2 portion of the intervertebral disc between the adjacent vertebrae that are to be fused, and inserting
3 into said space at least one implant consisting substantially of cortical bone, said implant
4 comprising a canal surrounded by a continuous or discontinuous wall of cortical bone in the
5 shape of a circle, an ellipse, or an asymmetric shape, thereby forming an implant having a top
6 face and a bottom face, each of which is substantially planar, with said planes being substantially
7 parallel to each other.

1 39. The method of claim 38 wherein said canal is surrounded by a convexly curved
2 anterior cortical bone face and three substantially rectilinear cortical bone faces unitary with said
3 convexly curved anterior cortical bone face, thereby forming an implant having a top face and a
4 bottom face.

1 40. The method of claim 39 wherein said canal is packed with osteogenic material.

1 41. An implant consisting substantially of cortical bone, said implant having been
2 prepared by a process comprising:
3 (a) obtaining a plug of bone consisting substantially of cortical bone by using a core
4 cutter having a central drill bit, thereby forming a canal through the bone plug
5 obtained with the core cutter;

6 (b) machining the bone plug of step (a) to produce a “washer-shaped” bone plug;
7 (c) machining the canal through the bone plug to form an asymmetric shape therein; and
8 (d) using said asymmetric shape to machine an outside profile of the bone plug.

1 42. The implant of claim 41 wherein said plug of bone is obtained by cutting into the
2 diaphysis of a long bone and into the intramedullary canal of said long bone to form a bone plug
3 having a substantially cortical end and an end derived from the wall of the intramedullary canal.

1 43. The implant of claim 42 wherein the end of the plug of bone derived from the
2 intramedullary canal is machined to form a substantially planar surface to obtain a substantially
3 "washer-shaped" bone plug composed substantially of cortical bone.

1 44. The implant of claim 43 wherein said canal is formed into an asymmetric shape by
2 broaching said canal to form said asymmetric shape through the bone plug.

1 45. The implant of claim 44 wherein said asymmetric shape is substantially "D"-
2 shaped.

1 46. The implant of claim 44 wherein said bone plug having a substantially "D"-
2 shaped canal is further machined such that the external profile of the bone plug substantially
3 matches the profile of said canal.

1 47. The implant of claim 44 wherein said further machining comprises contacting the
2 bone plug with an asymmetrically shaped grinder wheel.

1 48. The implant of claim 44 wherein said further machining comprises mounting said
2 bone plug on a spindle affixed to an asymmetrically shaped cam and contacting the thus mounted
3 bone plug with a cutter rotating about a symmetric axis such that the cutter is made to cut more
4 or less bone as dictated by the shape of said asymmetric cam.

1 49. The implant of claim 48 further comprising stacking said bone plug, either prior to
2 or after said machining, drilling holes therein, and pinning said stacked bone plugs to each other.

1 50. An implant prepared by a process comprising:
2 (a) cutting a segment of cortical bone;
3 (b) shaping said segment of cortical bone into a symmetric half of the final shape of said
4 implant comprising a canal surrounded by a continuous or discontinuous wall of
5 cortical bone, such that when implanted in juxtaposition with a mirror image segment,
6 an implant is formed having a circular, an elliptical, or an asymmetric shape, a top
7 face and a bottom face, each of which is substantially planar, with said planes being
8 substantially parallel to each other; and
9 (c) cutting appropriate lengths of said shaped segment of cortical bone such that said cut
10 length provides half of an implant having a desired height.

1 51. The implant of claim 50 which further comprises machining an external feature
2 into the top the bottom or both surfaces of the implant.

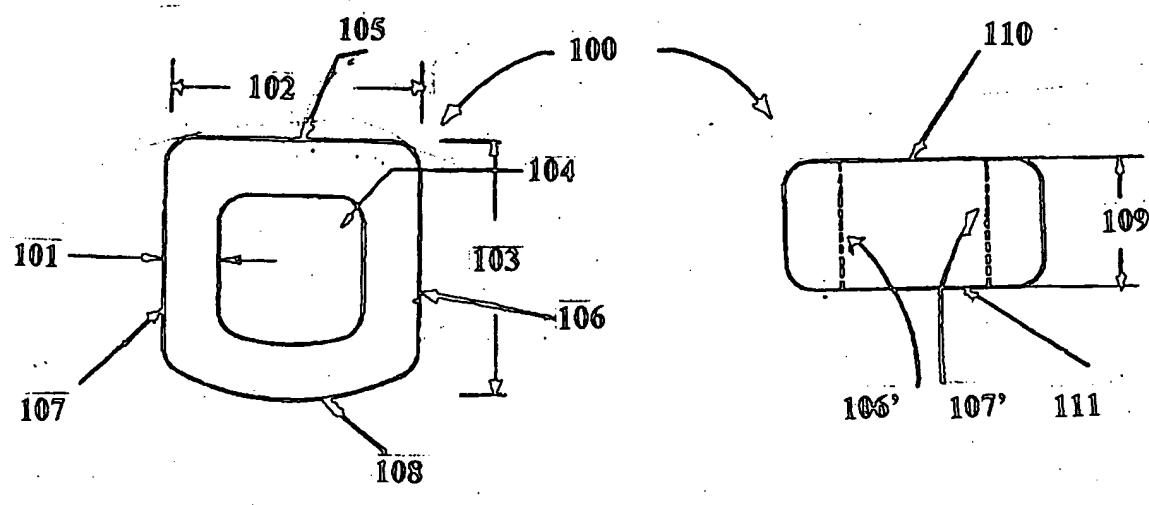
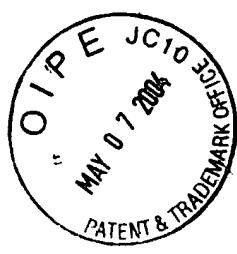
1 52. The implant of claim 41 which further comprises machining an external
2 feature into the top the bottom or both surfaces of the implant.

1 53. An apparatus for inscribing an external feature into a bone implant which
2 comprises: (a) a base having a recess, said recess housing (b) a plurality of cutting blades having
3 both a non-cutting upper surface, against which said bone implant may be pressed, and a cutting
4 upper surface, for inscribing said external feature into said bone implant; said base providing a
5 sliding surface for a (c) carriage; said carriage being slideably fixed to said base by (d) posts
6 holding (e) a guide rod; said carriage further having a (e) tensionable slot for receiving said
7 implant which is loaded into said slot and pushed snugly against said non-cutting upper surface
8 of said plurality of cutting blades, such that said implant may then be raked across said cutting

9 surface of said plurality of blades to inscribe said external feature therein.

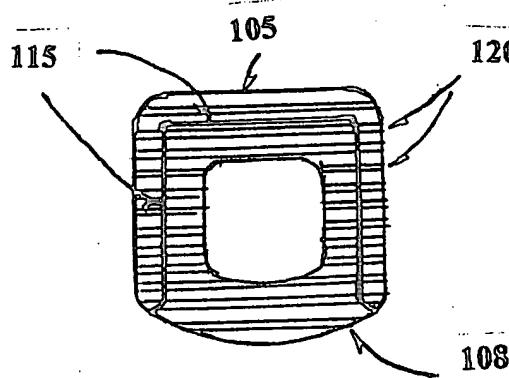
7.0 Abstract of the Disclosure

An implant composed substantially of cortical bone is provided for use in cervical Smith-
5 Robinson vertebral fusion procedures. The implant is derived from allograft or autograft cortical
bone sources, is machined to form a symmetrically or asymmetrically shaped (e.g. a substantially
"D"-shaped) implant having a canal running therethrough according to methods of this invention,
and inserted into the space between adjacent cervical vertebrae to provide support and induce
fusion of the adjacent vertebrae. Osteogenic materials may be packed into the canal of the
10 implant to expedite vertebral fusion and to allow autologous bony ingrowth.

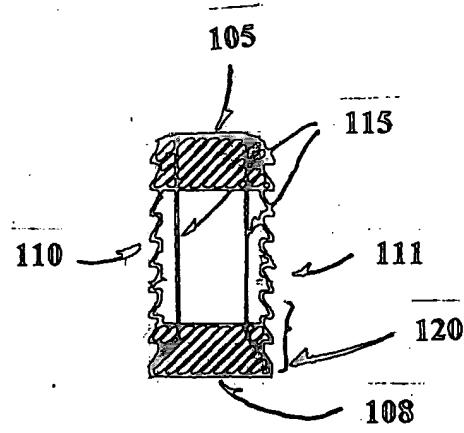


1A

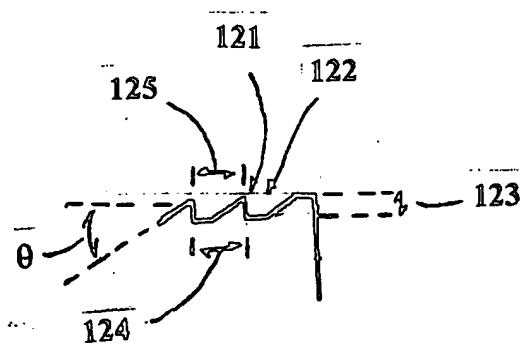
1B



1C



1D



1E

Figure 1

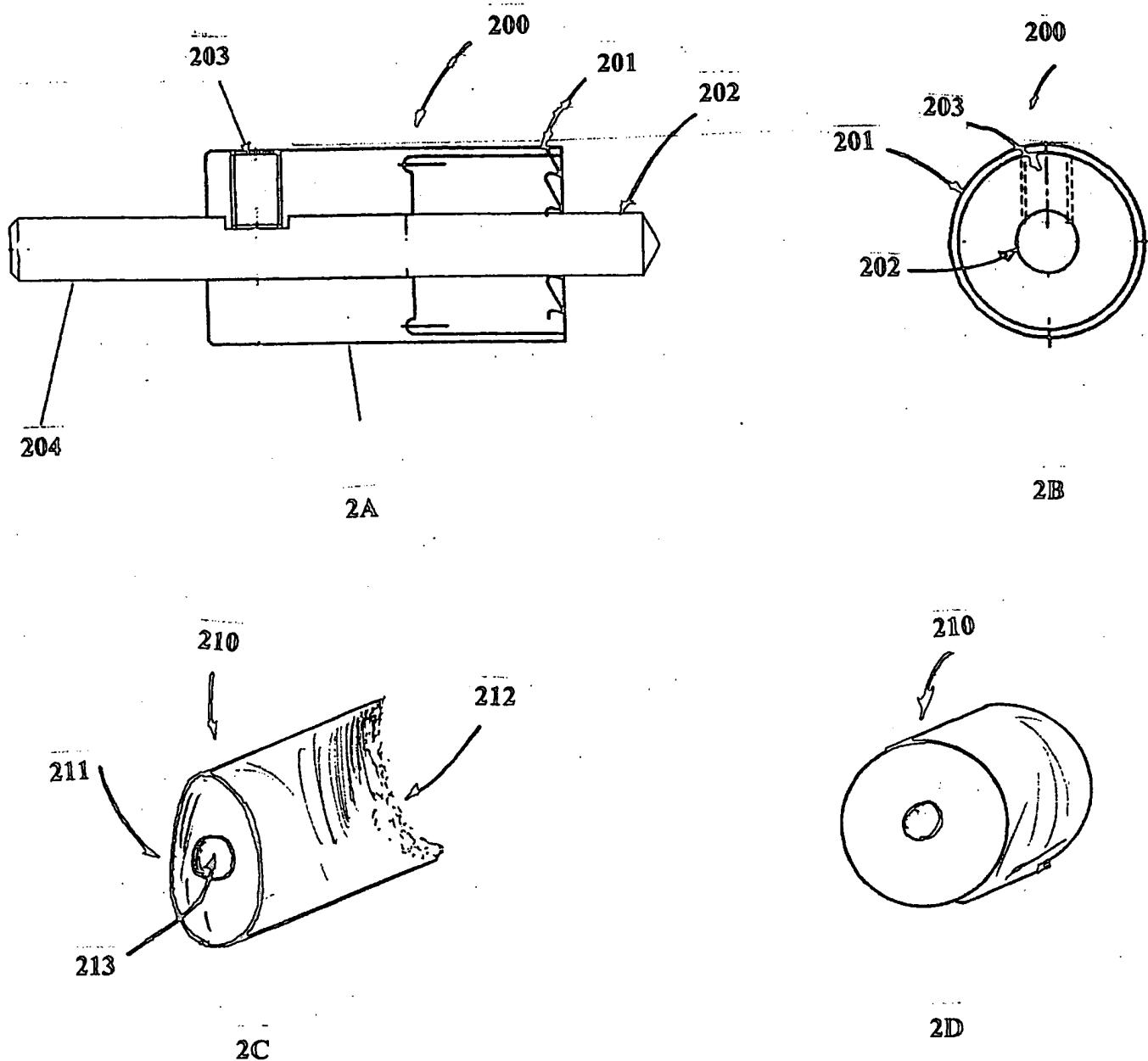


Figure 2

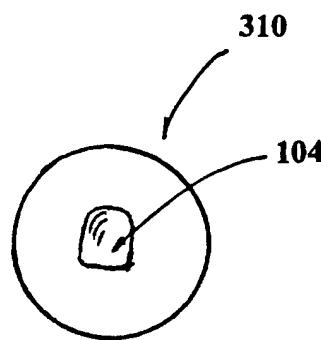
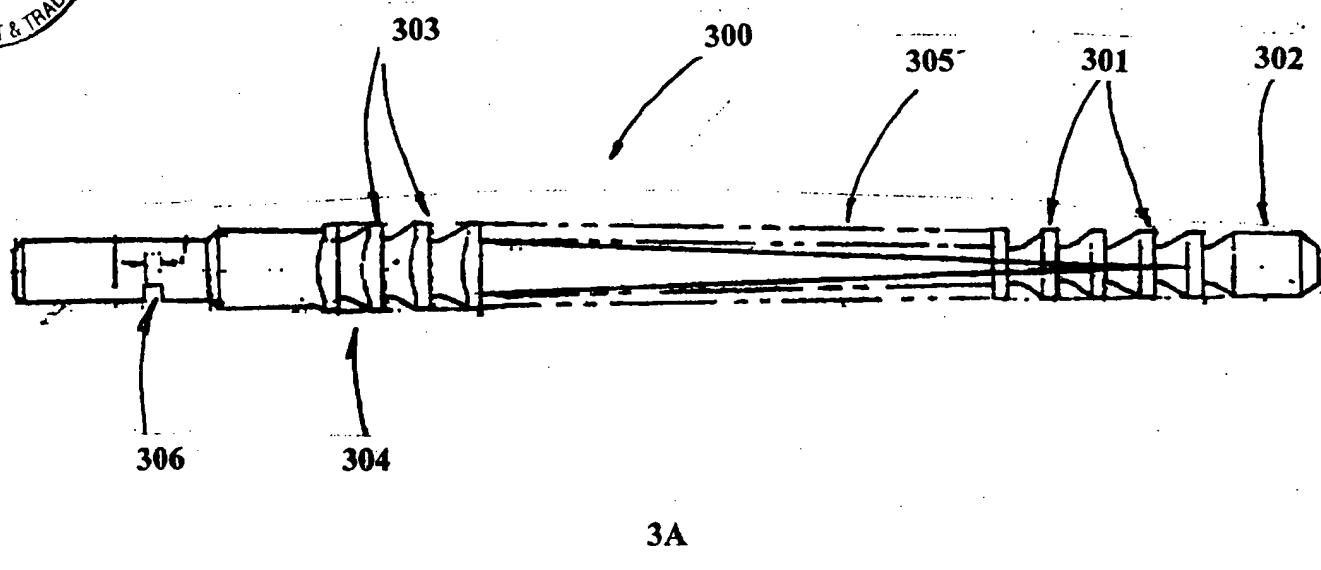
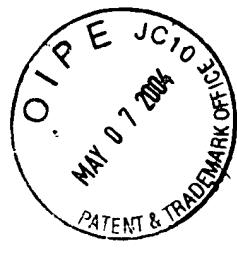


Figure 3

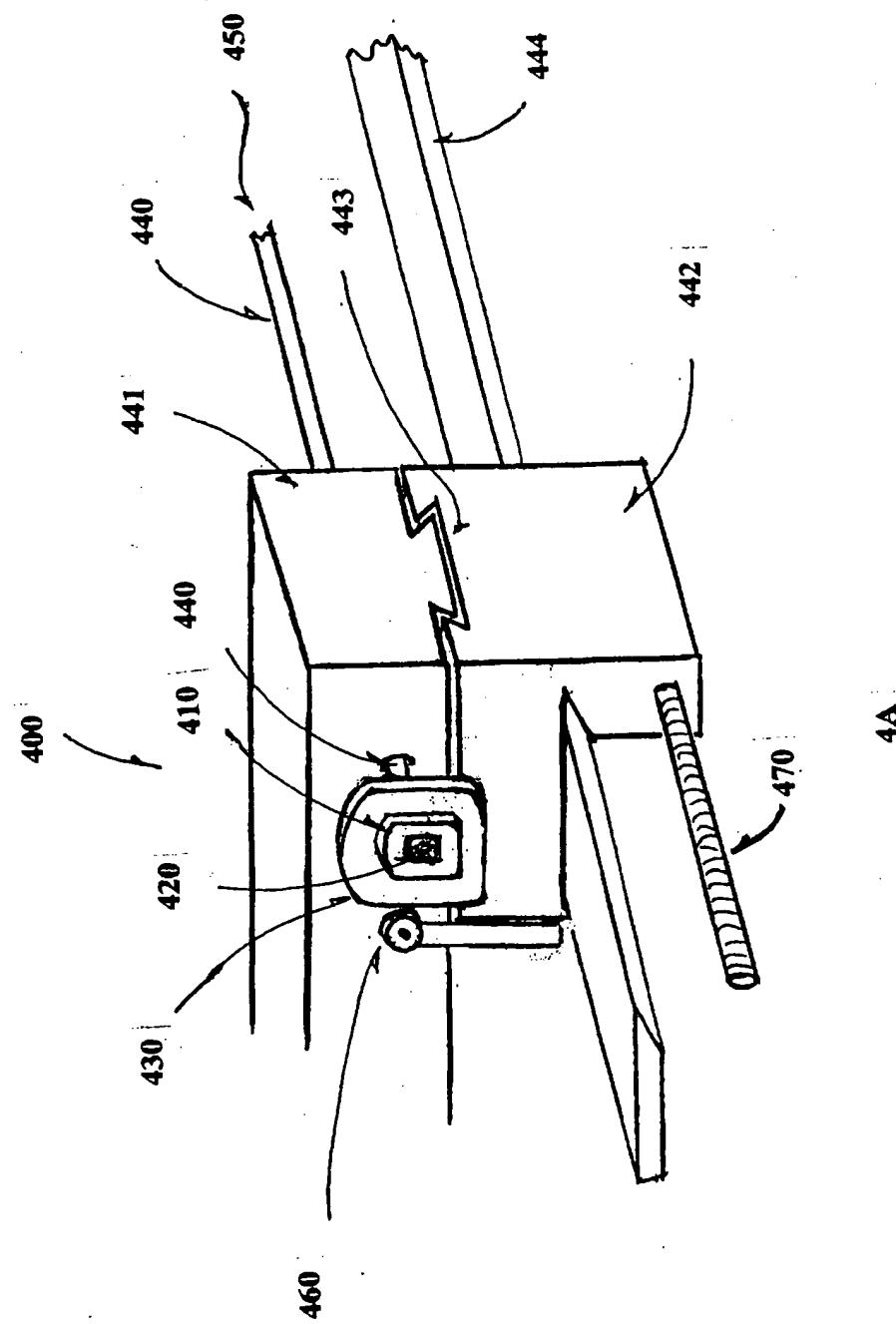
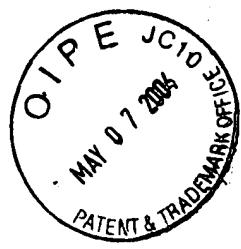


Figure 4

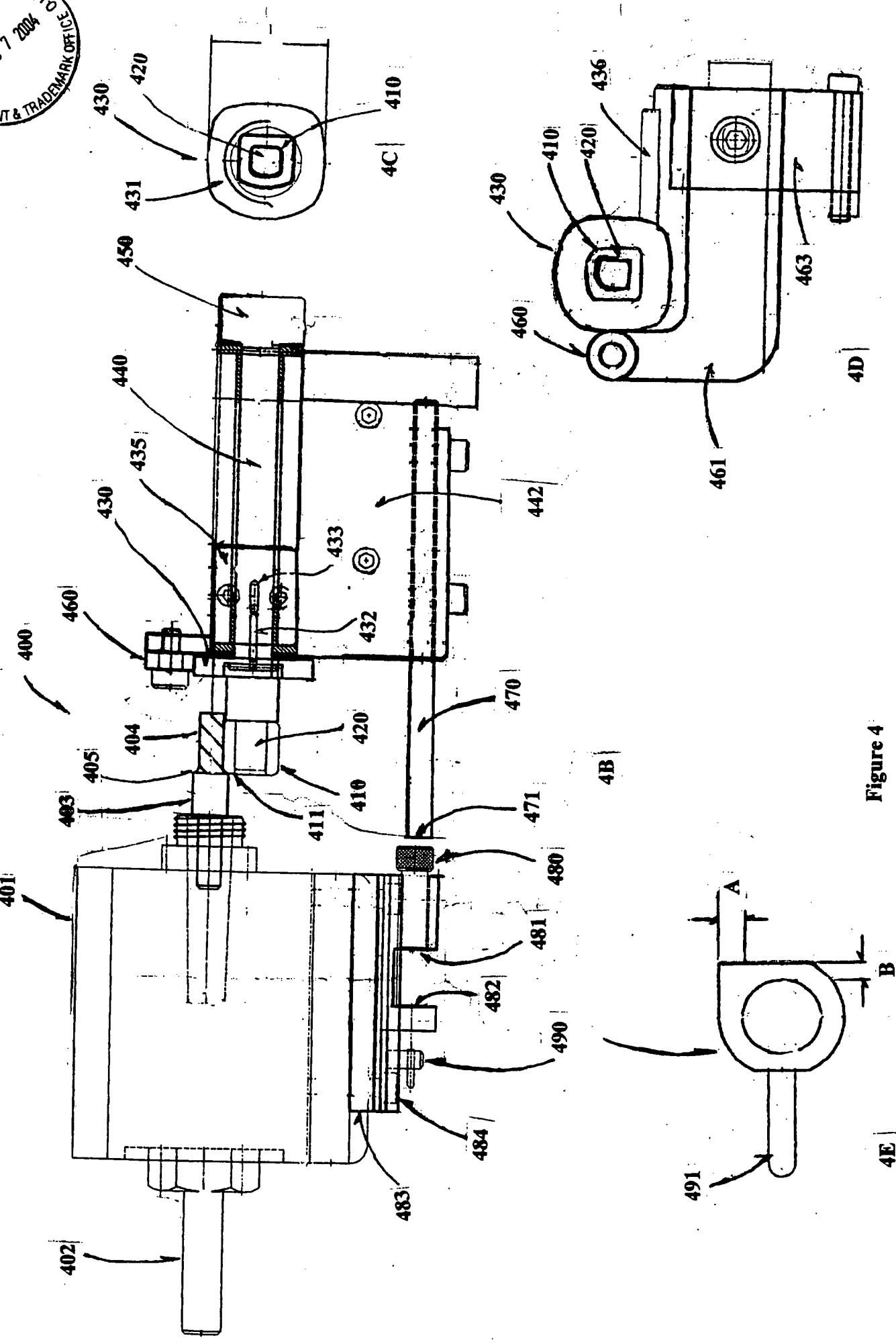


Figure 4

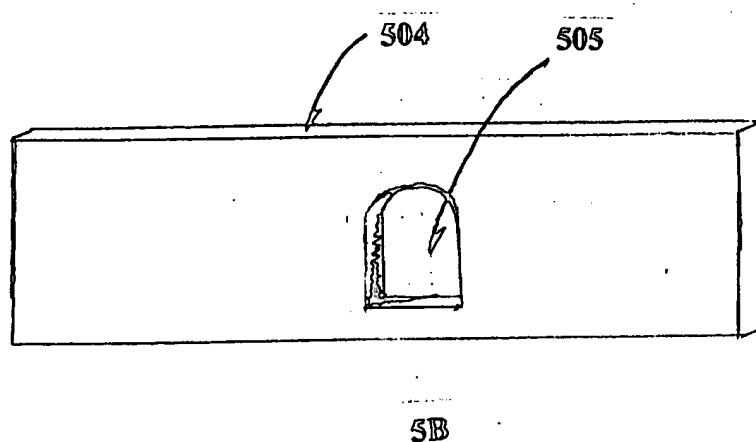
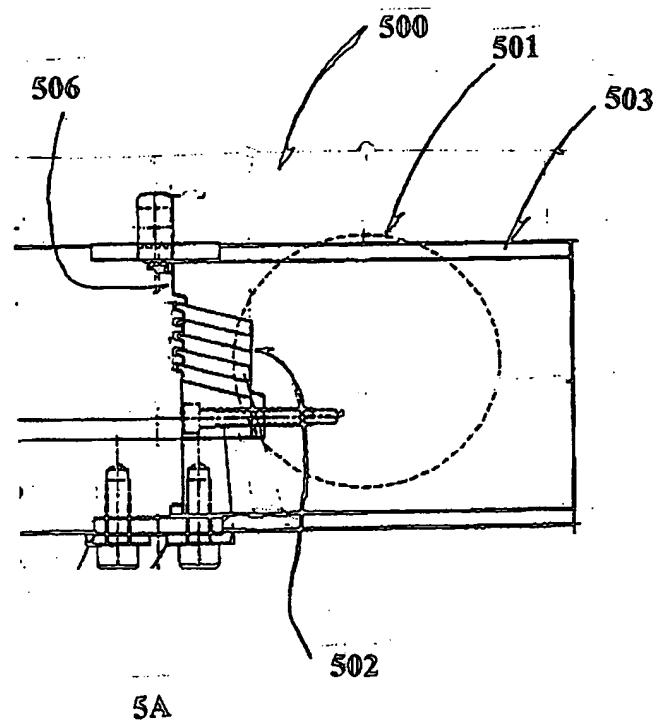
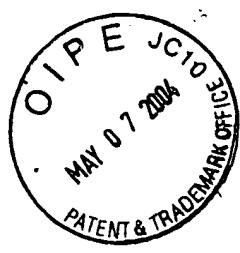


Figure 5

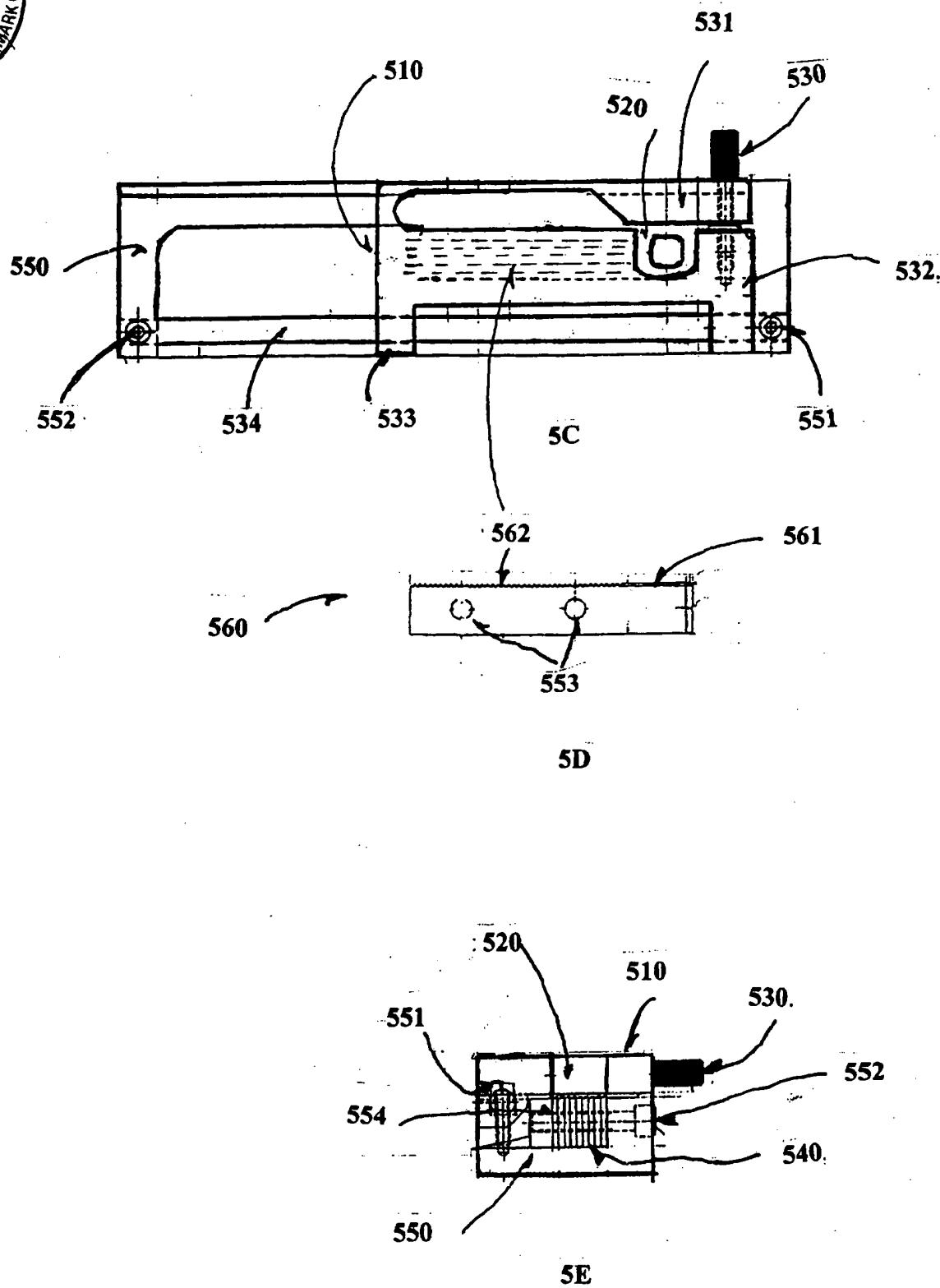
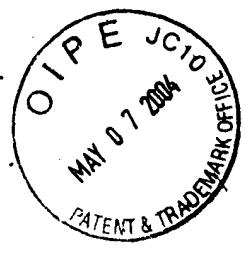


Figure 5

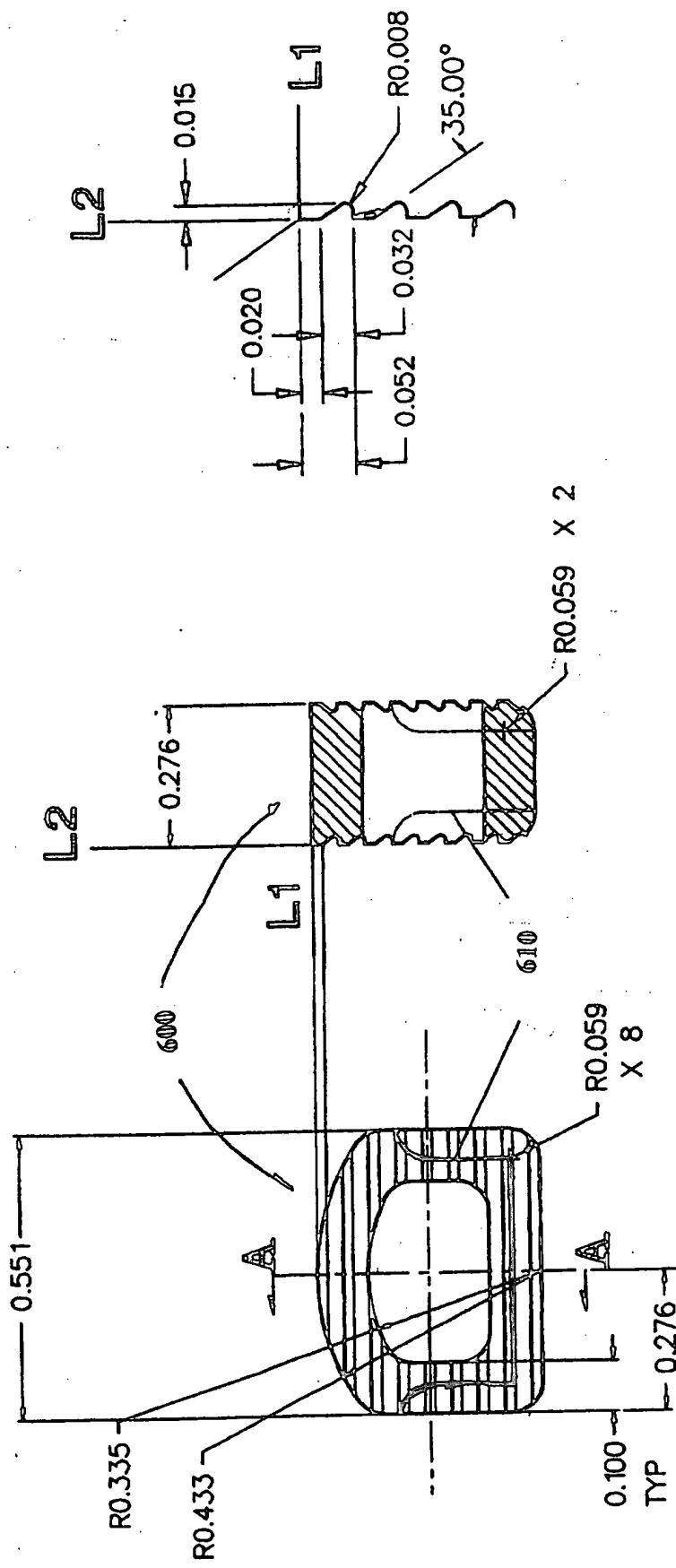


Figure 6

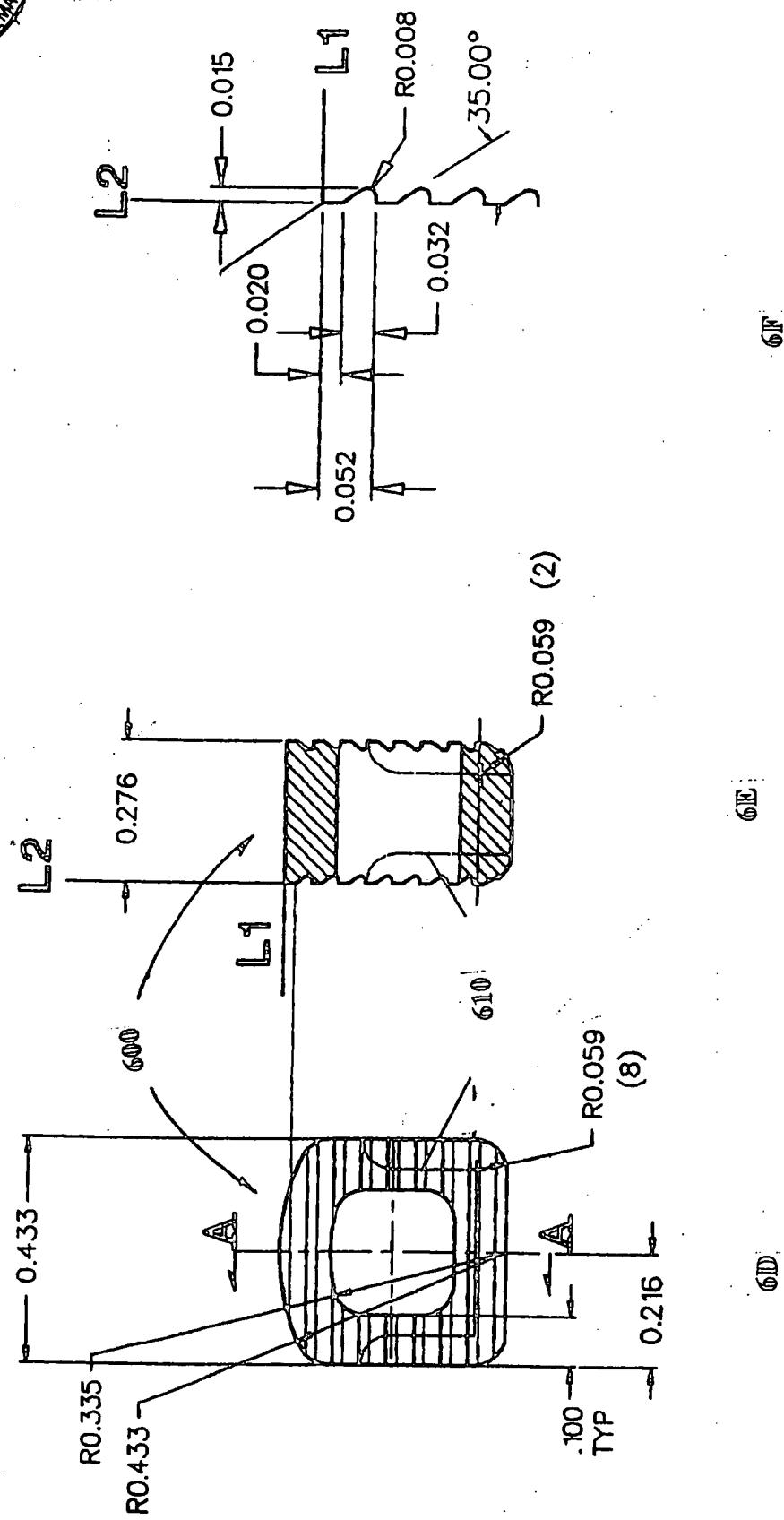
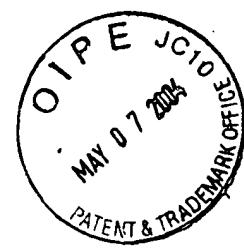
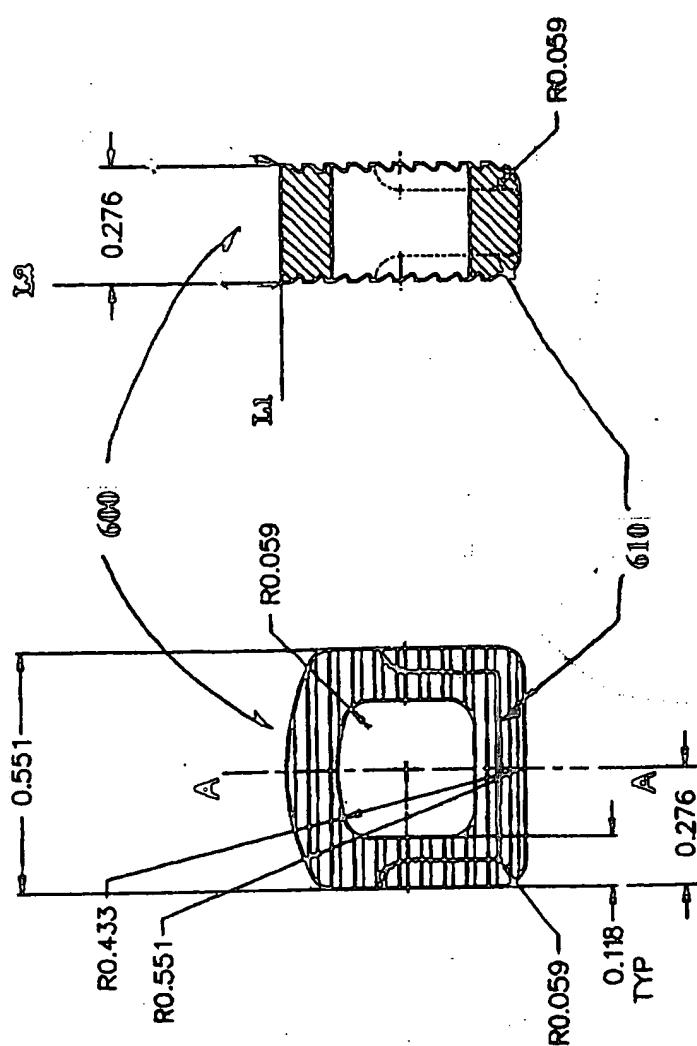


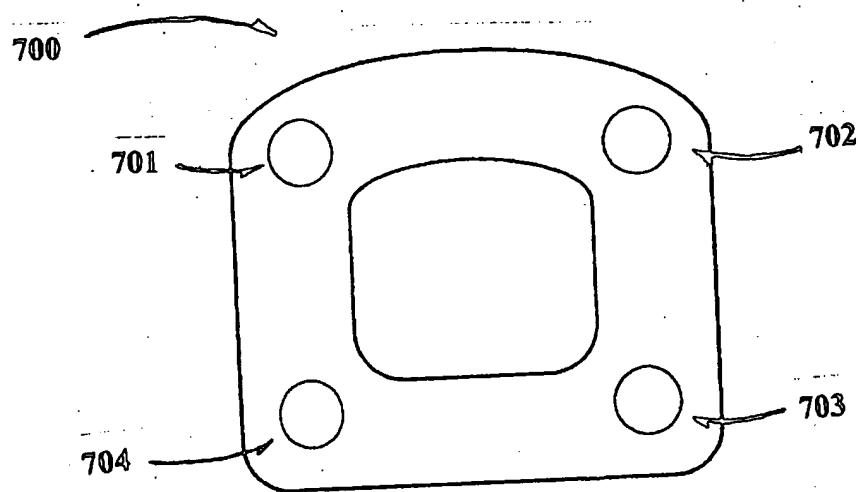
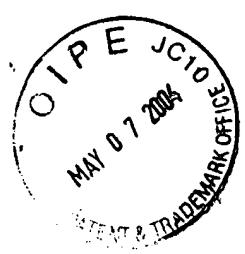
Figure 6



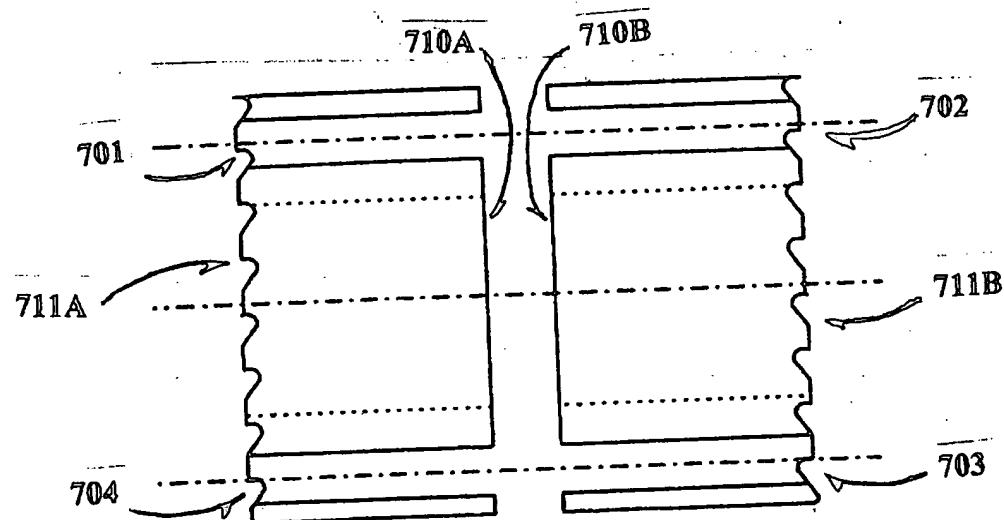
69

6

Figure 6



7A



7B

Figure 7

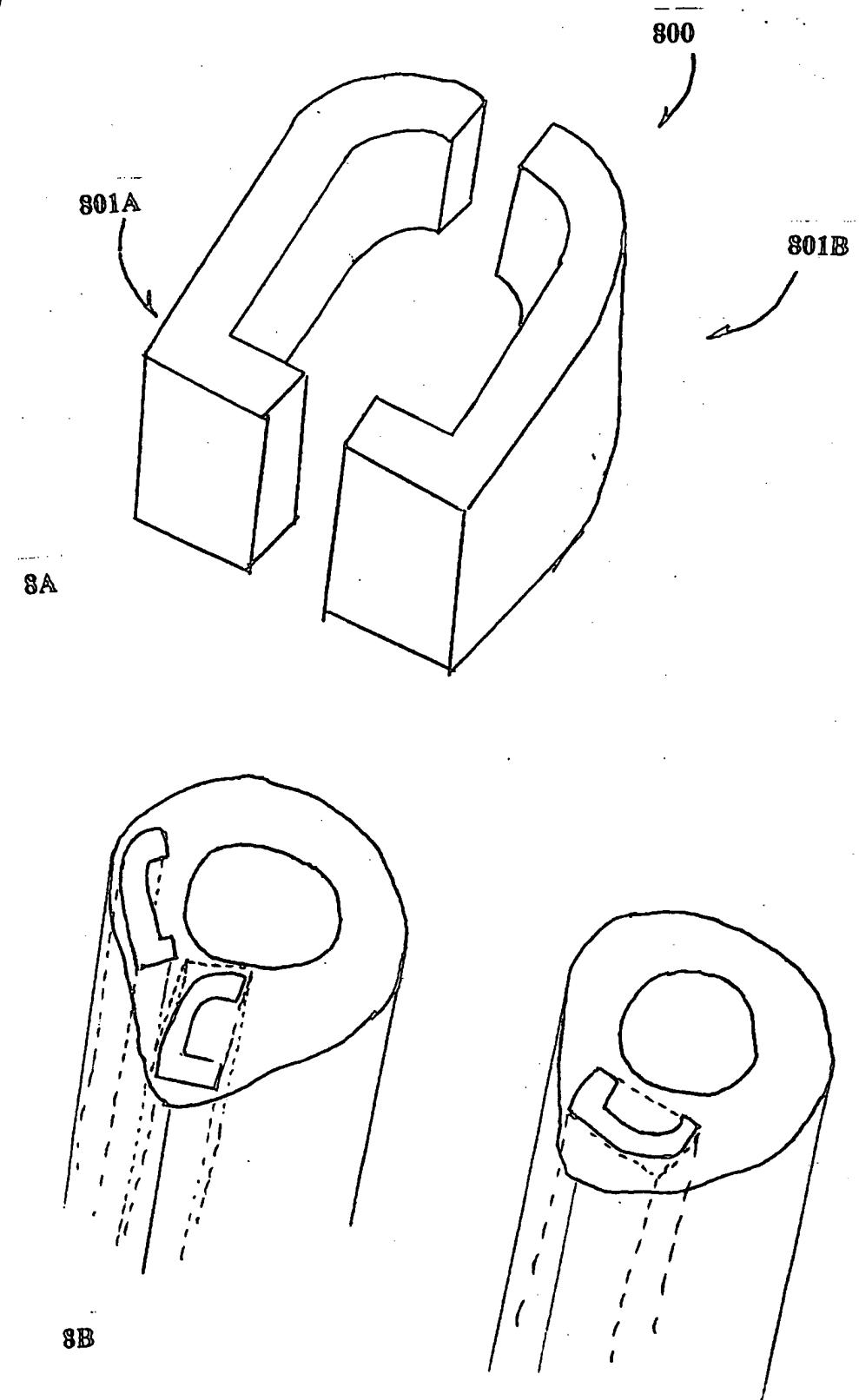


Figure 8